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Five State Regional Conference

DES MOINES, IOWA, OCTOBER 12 TO 15, 1932

Conducted by the

STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI,
AND NEBRASKA

This Meeting Takes the Place of the Annual Meeting of the
Minnesota Library Association

WRITE THE DATES NOW ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND
"OCTOBER 12-15." PLACE: "DES MOINES"

FIVE STATE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

These five states have a combined population of 12 million and have within their borders 800 libraries containing over 15 million volumes. Enrolled public library borrowers numbering nearly 2 million, borrowed from their libraries last year over 30 million volumes. An attendance of 600 or more is expected at the Regional Conference.

The Conference is in charge of a committee consisting of the presidents of the five participating state associations and the librarian of the Des Moines Public Library. Local arrangements are in the hands of committees appointed from the membership of the Des Moines Library Club, which represents all the library interests of Des Moines and will act as host to the visitors.

The tentative program provides for registration on Wednesday afternoon, October 12, with the first general session Wednesday evening. Meetings of the separate state associations are scheduled for Thursday morning, October 13, followed in the afternoon by group round tables for librarians of large libraries, librarians of medium sized libraries, librarians of small libraries, trustees, hospital librarians, children's librarians and reference librarians. The second and third general sessions are scheduled for Friday and Saturday mornings respectively, October 14 and 15. Friday afternoon, October 14, there will be three important section meetings of county librarians, college librarians and school librarians followed by a joint banquet of all the participating associations at which speakers of note in the literary world will be heard. The conference closes Saturday afternoon, arrangements being made at that time for delegates to enjoy an auto ride about the city or the various recreational facilities of golf, tennis, swimming, etc., offered in Des Moines's beautiful parks and Country Clubs.

Arrangements are being made for special railroad rates and private bus transportation from some of the principal cities of the five state area to Des Moines. Iowa's beautiful concrete road system gives easy access to Des Moines for those who drive their own cars. Late road maps and detailed driving instructions will later be mailed to all public libraries in the five states, as will detailed information concerning the program.

To help defray the expenses of the conference a registration fee of \$1.00 will be charged.

There are excellent hotel facilities in Des Moines all conveniently located near the headquarters hotel, the Ft. Des Moines, where all the general sessions of the conference will be held. A definite number of rooms will be assigned for conference delegates and information sent to all public libraries in ample time to make reservations.

For any further information regarding the conference, write Forrest Spaulding, Librarian, Public Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Impressions by Those Who Attended

The New Orleans conference (April 25th-30th) was much better attended than was at first expected. Over twelve hundred people registered and it is almost certain that a considerable number of others were present who did not register. The program was elaborate and there were a great many conflicts due to the fact that it was impossible for everybody to be in all the different places in which he was interested. As a rule, the tone of the conference was good natured and much less pessimistic than might have been expected from the present state of depression in many libraries. The depression was most evident in the absence of many librarians and library assistants who are usually counted on as regular conference attendants. Judging from reports as well as from personal attendance, the sectional meetings were of rather better average merit than is sometimes the case and the general meetings were on the whole of considerable interest and value. H. M. Lydenberg, of the New York Public Library was elected President for the year 1932-1933; Miss Julia Ideson, Librarian of the Houston, Texas, Public Library, first Vice-President, and Joseph L. Wheeler, of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, who has also served as first Vice-President of the Association, was elected second Vice-President. It was impossible to check the exact number of persons present from Minnesota, but the delegations from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Chisholm, Hibbing, the University Library and St. Catherine's College brought the number up to a very respectable total.

Aside from the meeting itself, the conference was pleasant because of the opportunities given to see the picturesque side of New Orleans. Although Tulane, Sophie Newcomb and Loyola universities were visited, the Old French Quarter perhaps, exercised the most lasting charm.

FRANK K. WALTER,
University Librarian.

If a librarian can afford the time, there is no way so cheap and so satisfactory as a motor trip to a library conference.

Three cars started from the Minneapolis Library to New Orleans, and followed the Spring down day by day until we arrived at Summer with lilacs and oleanders, iris, and lilies. One of the most noticeable things to a Northerner are the many cabins and shacks, housing large families, either of negroes or whites. The next striking thing is the number of new brick school buildings, both in villages and in country districts. One reads the report of Tommie Dora Barker, A. L. A. Regional Field Agent for the South, with deeper interest after seeing the visual signs of an educational awakening.

One of the most interesting things in the Conference to me was a report of the Citizens' library movement in North Carolina. It might be well for us to start some such movement in Minnesota. It is a movement coming from the people themselves, and not a project forced upon them.

They apparently would have much time to read in Louisiana if we could judge by the number of people, especially negroes, sitting idly on their tumble-down porches. The story of Miss Mary Mims, State Community worker of Louisiana, among these people was intensely interesting. Her topic was Library Dividends in Rural Communities. She was on fire with her subject, and one could readily see that she would wake up any community.

To me the great interest of this particular Conference centered around the awakening of library and educational interest in the South.

GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN,
Librarian, Minneapolis Public Library.

The meetings of the County Libraries Section, held in conjunction with the League of Library Commissions, the Trustees, and the Third General Session of the American Library Association, were a most stimulating experience. The keynote of the talks was sounded by Colonel J. M. Mitchell, secretary, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. In his address on the library movement in Great Britain, at the third general session, he explained the part of the county libraries of England in the educational system, stating their aim to make every book in the largest library available to the least privileged boy or girl in the most remote corner of the British Isles. In conclusion he said, "The information service to the rural districts must not be cut."

At the same session President Frank P. Graham of the University of North Carolina stressed the tremendous influence of the library on the mental, moral, and physical development of American life.

Miss Mary Mims, extension sociologist and organization specialist of the State University of Louisiana, was the outstanding speaker on Tuesday afternoon. In a most stirring appeal she spoke of the economic, civic, and recreational dividends to the rural borrowers through the development of parish (county) library service. She said, in brief, "It may be too late now to help the physical and mental dwarfs in our midst, but the social and spiritual dwarfs are the direct responsibility of the community and must be cared for." Other inspiring talks also contributed to the success of the county sessions.

MYRA WHITNEY BUELL,
Chief of Extension Division,
St. Paul Public Library.

Minnesotans on the A. L. A. program were F. K. Walter, who read a paper at the College and Reference Section, entitled *From Another Angle*, Gratia A. Countryman, who took part in a discussion of publicity from the standpoint of present economic and social conditions at the Publicity Round Table, and Charlotte Campbell, chief of the Periodicals Division, St. Paul Public Library, who made a report on the Future Work of the Periodicals Section. Miss Campbell is chairman of a Committee on a Three-year program.

Sheril D. Klapp, librarian of the Minneapolis Bar Association was elected president of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Della McGregor, St. Paul Public Library was made chairman of the Section for Library Work with Children.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Council of the American Library Association at its final session, April 30, 1932, in New Orleans:

The Library in Time of Depression

Librarians and library authorities are urged by the American Library Association to meet sympathetically the demands of appropriating bodies for the utmost efficiency and economy in all public activities. At the same time they should stand unflinchingly for the maintenance of those library services which help to sustain morale and to increase understanding of the many difficult problems now confronting the American people.

This country has millions of unemployed men and women whose spirit is threatened by idleness and deadly discouragement. For many of them the library is one of the most essential agencies for combating these tendencies.

The library should make every effort to have the details of its budgets and activities thoroughly and intelligently studied and understood.

Librarians should continue to seek new and better ways of doing the necessary work at the least possible cost. Notable progress in this direction has been made.

Library salaries should be commensurate with those of other educational professions.

Regardless of the size of the book fund, some investment should be made from month to month in the best of the new books on current problems. In this time of stress when clear thinking on public questions is essential, the functions of the library as an agency for diffusion of ideas should not be curtailed.

When millions of men and women, old and young, are attempting to equip themselves to get or to hold jobs, the library should not be allowed to decrease its effective ser-

vice in technical, business and other vocational fields. When these and other millions are in greatest need of finding in free library service the only recreation they can afford and one of the few opportunities for renewing their faith in organized society, the library should not fail to meet its obligations to the community.

Library Salaries in Time of Depression

Salary standards in the library profession are among the lowest of all professions and have been for many years;

The breaking down of present standards will inevitably mean a serious lowering of the character of library service and have a disastrous result on the morale of the profession;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, That library trustees, librarians, and directors of library schools be urged to do all in their power to maintain salary scales commensurate with similar professions;

And, that the American Library Association through its Bulletin and in other ways make available to its members all possible information that will be useful in presenting facts to tax-levying and appropriating bodies, bearing on this all important matter.

*SHOULD TOWNS OF 5000 OR LESS HAVE TRAINED LIBRARIANS?

By Bernice Colby
Librarian, International Falls

To meet the responsibilities of a librarian in a small town, a good general education is necessary and library training an advantage:

1. **Book-buying is more difficult** when one is away from the city book-shops and deprived of the privilege of examining the new books first hand. Professional discussion groups are very advantageous—these too, are not possible to the small town librarian. Of course it is true that a village of 2500 inhabitants does not require the number of books that a city does; yet a careful selection is usually more needed because of shortness of funds.

2. **What and how many to send to the bindery, and what to discard,** are serious problems. The binderies are often at a distance from one's town making the freight an item of expense. In the first purchase one may buy books completely bound in library buckram and save any bindery cost thereafter. Yet, a book may be bought with the extra expense of reinforcing and then not "go." Also, re-binding, to an extent, spoils the personality of the book. In a city, where the bindery is a part of the library system, experts in book-binding may be relied upon to make the discards. We make them ourselves!

* Contribution to the Report of the Committee on Certification and Qualifications of Librarians, Minnesota Library Association.

When the library is also in connection with a school, as often is the case in towns, out-of-date books must be discarded whether or not they are worn-out. Even specialists in school work differ in opinion as to the usefulness of old texts.

3. **A knowledge of the school curriculum,** the needs of the pupils and teachers must not be overlooked. In fact, their requests should be anticipated, for if the librarian waits until the demand comes, the delay is a matter of one or two months. The training of student assistants in library work with credit offered in school is possible if a librarian is trained; otherwise this advantage of vocational guidance is denied the students.
4. **The handling of funds** may or may not prove difficult. A library board is pleased to have some one competent on whom to rely. They may have to pay more for such a person; but they are repaid in "peace of mind."
5. It is my opinion that the **reference work** of a library grows in proportion to the extent the librarian is able to answer the questions of the public. If people have reason to believe they may expect assistance, they ask; otherwise they do not bother.
6. It has been said that "a town is judged by its library." Surely, it may be an advertisement. In International Falls, near Rainy Lake where there are so many summer visitors, we allow transients the privilege of borrowing books. The satisfaction of these out-of-town patrons is not only a gratification to the library but a "boost" for the town.
7. That the librarian possess **tactfulness and foresight** is not least. Whether urging an increase in the appropriation, suggesting building improvements, or any change of policy it must be accompanied by tact. This quality may be found in the person just out of High School as well as the trained individual; but can there be the same foresight, the same realization of library possibilities and growth?
8. Now that everyone is talking and writing **County Libraries** the small villages must take their responsibility along with the cities. In Minnesota the county seats are often small towns, and it is from them that library extension in their counties must come.
- The library in International Falls supplies books to all Koochiching County through the County schools, the county truck, or by mail.
9. When a library is beginning, **Records** seem unimportant; as the collection grows they become vital. No one through ignorance wants to leave the records so incomplete that someone has to check up on the whole process a few years later.

If apprentice work in a library were possible to every future librarian it would be invaluable. But it is expensive to the library and a burden to the library staff. Therefore, I believe interested individuals must be asked to go to library school.

"One of the ideals of librarianship is to enjoy it as you go." If we have an educational background to give us confidence we cannot help but enjoy our profession.

INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

Think of this system of libraries, if you like, as one of eighteen branches scattered over the state within a radius of two hundred miles with St. Paul as its administrative center. These eighteen collections do not travel from one institution to another; they are stationary, and selected to meet the different needs of the particular group. At headquarters, Room 29, State Capitol, there is no central collection except for five hundred or so books in the 300's and another much larger collection of state and federal documents for the uses of the Board of Control. Our population of inmates alone on February 1st was 15,527.

The collections of books vary from about 500 to 15,000 in the different places, totaling about 75,000 volumes. Each institution budgets its own amount for both magazines and books, a budget which allows in most places for consistent and satisfactory book purchasing.

Eight of these eighteen units may be regarded as school libraries, and in them we are encouraging the use of the methods of progressive school librarians. Two are definitely hospital libraries, and the book-cart makes possible the necessary service on the wards.

In all we try to promote a definite reading habit. We know that most of these 15,000 who will go back into society will have handicaps, some more than others—whether physical, temperamental, psychological, whatever you may call it. These handicaps will make it harder for them to earn a living than it is even for the rest of us. They are apt to be the ones who will be let out of their jobs first. They will probably be slightly more unstable, have less good work habits, poorer powers of concentration, and the like. In other words, they are the ones who are likely to receive more than their share of leisure, that commodity of modern industry of which there is an over production and will be for a long time to come. What can we do about it? Create satisfactory reading habits as new resources, stabilizing and recreational. We can so assist in relieving the terrific and increasing load on the tax-paying public, as well as definitely help those that go out to lead the good life, the normal, satisfactory life.

To give some idea of the increasing amount of reading done in these eighteen

groups, we have compared the circulation for the six months ending December 31, 1931, with that same period of the previous year. These are the results:

	1931	1930
Monthly average (July to December)	39,424	34,691

or an increase of 14 per cent. The increase in non-fiction during that time was 44 per cent.

The library taking first place is that of the Home School for Girls at Sauk Center, Irene Richard, librarian. They carried off the honors showing an increase of 102 per cent for total reading and 125 per cent for non-fiction.

The Training School for Boys at Red Wing, Mary C. Howard, librarian, came second with increases of 95 per cent and 99 per cent for total and non-fiction, respectively.

What made this possible? Different factors, of course—new books, closer connection with administrative headquarters; but most of all the tact, sturdy belief, patient and persistent work on the part of the local librarians with the matrons and the School Departments.

Our total circulation from July, 1930, to July, 1931, was about 430,000. If we make allowances for the increase in population since July, 1931, the average number of books and magazines read per capita is not lower than 30 for the year. Not bad if compared with public library standards.

There are many intriguing problems arising out of the necessities and psychological differences of the individual groups, such as the vocabulary limitations of the deaf, the social attitudes of the blind, the wide variance in intelligence in the prisons, the pathetic precosity combined with the naive childishness of the adolescent group in the schools for delinquents. So it goes. They are, most of them, at least potential members of the reading public. Would that we were hydra-headed and each head octopus-handed.

PERRIE JONES,
Supervisor of Institution Libraries.

TWIN CITY LIBRARY CLUB

The spring meeting of the Twin City Library Club was held at the new Women's City Club of St. Paul on March 31, 1932. There were one hundred and twenty-three members present.

The reading of the minutes was omitted but the report of the treasurer was read, showing a balance on hand of \$67.65.

The secretary was then asked to read a letter from Carl H. Milam, Secretary of the American Library Association, in which he explained that due to the expiration of a grant and reduced receipts from various sources, the association's income would suffer a decrease of many thousands of dollars.

He suggested that the Twin City Library Club consider taking either a sustaining membership at \$100 a year or a contributing membership at \$25 a year. A motion was made and carried that the club take a contributing membership.

Theodore C. Blegen, Superintendent of the State Historical Society, the speaker of the evening, then gave a very delightful talk on the early historical backgrounds of Minnesota and the ways in which much of this material has been obtained through old diaries, letters and newspaper files.

After the meeting, St. Paul members who belong to the Women's City Club offered to show the building to any one who wished to see it. Most of the group availed themselves of the opportunity and were very enthusiastic in their praise. The extremely modernistic architectural and decorative features of the building made it of especial interest.

HAZEL M. WITCHIE,
Secretary.

RANGE LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

The thirteenth semi-annual meeting of the Range Library Trustees' Association was held at Nashwauk in the new Memorial Building, April 5, 1932.

Mr. M. B. Rustan, president of the Nashwauk library board presided as toastmaster.

After grace by the Rev. L. S. Sloan a very fine banquet was served and an enjoyable concert by a Nashwauk orchestra added to the pleasure.

Following the banquet Mr. Rustan very ably presented the following program:

The address of welcome by Mr. Crockett Brown, president of the village of Nashwauk. Mr. Brown gave some "high lights" of Nashwauk's early days that brought back fond recollections to many "old timers" on the Range.

Mr. McIvor of Virginia graciously responded for the trustees.

Vocal solo by Rev. C. E. Nestande, accompanied by Miss Elfreda Lundeberg.

Reading: "Blue Eyed Sheik" by Miss Eleanor Mader.

Address: "Success Around the Corner" by Rev. F. E. Stillwell, Bemidji, Minnesota.

Accordion solo by Mr. Peter Tarro.

Dance by Miss Esther Lanto, accompanied by Miss Ruth Lanto.

Vocal solo by Mrs. A. W. Craven, accompanied by Miss Rose Macemon.

Address by Miss Clara F. Baldwin.

Following the program Mr. Rustan turned the meeting over to Mrs. Hunter, president of the Association.

Sixty-five members responded to roll call as follows: Aurora 6, Buhl 4, Chisholm 4, Coleraine 5, Eveleth 5, Grand Rapids 4, Hibbing 6, Keeewatin 4, Marble 5, Nashwauk 9, Taconite 3, Virginia 5, Bovey 2, and Kinney 3.

Mrs. Hunter then asked Mr. Hope to outline some suggestions for improving the programs of the business sessions of the association.

Following Mr. Hope's remarks, it was voted that the officers send a questionnaire to each board before the semi-annual meetings so that the boards might be prepared to discuss the questions at the meetings of the association.

A few of the topics discussed briefly were: Closed shelf; Closing hour for children at libraries; Ways of reducing to meet reduced budgets, such as decreased hours, etc.; Per cent of budget that should go for salaries and books; Collection of fines from children; closing on holidays and Sundays.

The following officers were elected by unanimous ballot for the coming year: President, L. A. Hope of Buhl; first Vice-President, Mrs. Daniel Costello of Grand Rapids; second Vice-President, Dr. C. W. More of Eveleth; Secretary, Mrs. Durant Barclay of Marble.

Mrs. MacKechnie of Hibbing invited the association to meet at Hibbing in the fall—this was accepted.

A rising vote of thanks was given Mesdames Hunter and Lerch, the retiring president and secretary, and also to Nashwauk for their royal entertainment.

MRS. IRWIN LERCH,
Secretary.

LAKE REGION LIBRARY CLUB

An interesting program has been prepared for the meeting of the Lake Region Library Club in Fergus Falls, June 9 and 10.

Beginning with a round table discussion on practical problems of library administration, there will be a luncheon at the River Inn, when trustees will have a separate table for discussion of their problems. In the afternoon following the roll-call on Short Cuts and Economies, the theme will be Libraries and Public Morale. Perrie Jones, Supervisor of State Institution Libraries will speak on Adventuring in Frontiers and Clara Richards of the Masonic Library, Fargo, will speak on Adult Education—a challenge to librarians. A round table on Maintaining Efficient Service will be led by Mrs. Jenny Lind Blanchard, Little Falls.

At the evening session, the speakers will be Gratia Countryman, Minneapolis Public Library, who will pass on the inspiration of the New Orleans conference and Frank K. Walter of the University Library.

Friday morning will be devoted to book-selection, with talks by Miss Wood and Miss Methven of the Library Division, Miss Edna Moore, Duluth and Miss Claire Winzenburg, Crookston, illustrated with exhibits of books.

The meeting will close with a picnic luncheon Friday noon.

ROUND TABLE MEETINGS

The plan of holding district library meetings or institutes, throughout the state, so successful in many other states has never been definitely carried out in Minnesota, although it has frequently been proposed.

This spring the Library Division with the cooperation of the hostess libraries is planning to hold two such meetings in southern Minnesota, in Mankato, May 25 and Rochester, May 27. No formal program has been arranged, but the morning will be devoted to practical problems of library administration and the afternoon to discussion of interesting books and problems of book buying.

These conferences will promote better acquaintance among neighboring librarians and will provide an opportunity for more intimate discussion of the problems of the small library than is afforded at the state library association meetings. The fact that Minnesota will join with four other states in a regional meeting in Des Moines, Iowa next fall, makes this a good time to try out the plan.

Considerable interest has been indicated and a good attendance of librarians and trustees with everybody ready to contribute to the discussions is anticipated.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND THE LIBRARY

A round table on Extension Library Service was held at the University of Minnesota in connection with the annual conference of the National University Extension Association, May 11-12. Miss Almere Scott of the Wisconsin University Extension Division presided. At a dinner meeting Wednesday evening, topics discussed were preparation of bibliographies, study club aids and reading plans for adults. At a luncheon conference on Thursday, talks were given by Miss Baldwin on the State Traveling Library and University Extension; by Miss Laura Olsen, Librarian of the Eau Claire (Wis.) Public Library on The Public Library and University Extension; by Mrs. Edwin Thompson of La Crosse on The Citizen and University Extension Library Service and by Miss Harriet Wood on The High School Library and University Extension.

A recent report prepared by a Joint Committee on Cooperation of the National University Extension Association and the American Library Association, on University Extension and the Library comprises a study of library service rendered in various states, and summarizes the ways in which extension divisions and libraries can help each other. The report was printed in the October, 1931, A. L. A. Bulletin and reprints may be obtained from the American Library Association. Librarians who are interested in adult education will find in this report concrete suggestions for cooperation and specific ways in which they may be useful in the university extension field.

LIBRARY EXTENSION AND THE PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

A conference of the Library Extension and Home Reading committees was held at the Minneapolis convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers on Wednesday morning, May 18th, Julia Wright Merrill of the A. L. A., chairman of the national committee on Library Extension presiding. A paper on Children's reading interests was read by Della McGregor, chief of the Juvenile department, St. Paul Public Library; Miss Countryman of the Minneapolis Public Library spoke on Rural education through the county library, and Harriet A. Wood, Library chairman of the Minnesota Congress talked on The heart of the modern school. A general discussion followed and the following resolution was endorsed:

We believe that the essential services of existing libraries must be safeguarded in this period when people are turning to books as never before; and that library opportunity must be extended to rural people through the establishment of county libraries.

The Hennepin County and Ramsey County book-wagons were on exhibition on the day of the library conference.

DIVISION OF LIBRARY INSTRUCTION UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The spring quarter of the Division of Library Instruction began with a considerably larger registration than was at first anticipated. One hundred and eight students were registered, sixty-six of them for full time. About seventy are expected to complete their course at the coming June Commencement. Miss Isabel McLaughlin, of the Minneapolis Public Library, is taking an extra section of the course in Literature for Adolescents, which is made necessary because of the large registration. Miss Adelaida Rood, librarian of Sumner Branch, Minneapolis, is giving the lectures on circulation work and branch libraries in the Public Library Administration course. Miss Julia Wright Merrill, Executive assistant of the A. L. A. Extension Board addressed the school on May 17.

The first Library School dinner at an A. L. A. conference of graduates of the Division was held at the De Soto Hotel, New Orleans, Wednesday, April 27th. Misses Raybourne Cushman, Marjorie Hearn, Nellie Larson, Avalon Rines, Helen Sivertson and Mr. and Mrs. Walter comprised the party.

FRANK K. WALTER,
Director.

Alumni Association

Members of the Alumni association of the library school described their work at an informal dinner meeting held March 10th at the Business women's club.

The annual combined meeting of the members of the association with the members of

the graduating class of the library school is scheduled for June 2 at the Atkinson Tea-Room.

A paper devoted to the present activities of the alumni will shortly go to press, and each member may expect to see a copy soon.

TORDIS VATSHAUG,
Secretary.

FOLWELL CLUB, 1931-1932

An enthusiastic group of library students of the University of Minnesota met on October 27, 1931, to organize the Folwell Club for the year.

Three pleasurable and distinctly worth while dinner meetings were held.

On December 1, 1931, a large group assembled at Dayton's Tent. Miss Countryman told about the meeting in New York of the Executive Committee of the American Library Association, from which she had just returned, and made an inspiring appeal to librarians to meet the needs of the unemployment situation.

On February 3, 1932, Club members gathered in the attractive Social Service Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library, which is in the Citizen's Aid Building. While they were seated in a circle about the fireplace, Phyllis Beskin and Leonore Lieberman entertained the rest with a delightful musical program, and Miss Hazel Witchie, librarian of the Social Service Branch, in an informal and very pleasing manner explained the unique type of work she is doing and its relation to the welfare agencies of the city.

At the meeting on April 7, 1932, all seriousness was thrust aside, and the students indulged in the fun of caricaturing their instructors "with malice toward none and charity toward all." "Ten Years in a Book Room; a Costume Drammer" was presented by an able cast. Although the epilogue, "Ten Years Later; an Insane Asylum" pictured a gloomy future for those who sacrifice their lives for the cause of library progress, everyone left in high spirits.

Visits to libraries in St. Paul and Minneapolis were planned by committees appointed for the purpose. The Hill Reference Library and the St. Paul Public Library were visited on one afternoon, and on another occasion, the State Historical Library, the Library Division of the Minnesota Department of Education, and the State Law Library. In Minneapolis trips were made to the following places: Minneapolis Public Library, North Branch, Sumner Branch, Jordan Junior High School, and Phyllis Wheatley House. Everywhere the students were graciously received and given many valuable explanations.

Frequent teas relieved the tension of examination hours and the tedium of studying, and afforded students a means of becoming better acquainted. At one of these

Miss Maud Scheerer entertained everyone with her witty, sparkling conversation.

The social activities of the year culminated in a tea on May 11, 1932, in honor of librarians of the Twin Cities who had supervised the practice work of library students. On this occasion the Club was honored by the presence of Mrs. Darragh Aldrich.

ELLEN B. LAWIN,
Secretary.

SUMMER COURSES IN LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

Bemidji Teachers College

At the Bemidji State Teachers College during the summer session which will be held from July 13 to July 22, a course in Library methods will be offered. It will be designed particularly for the teacher-librarian and for the rural school teacher. The fundamental processes, such as ordering, accessioning, shelflisting, classifying, and mending, will be discussed and opportunity given to put into practice what has been learned. The purpose of the course will be to enable the teacher in charge of a small library to get the most good out of the books, by showing her how to properly care for them, and how to interest the children in them.

MARGARET NICHOLSEN,
Librarian.

Mankato Teachers College

School Libraries. The aim is to familiarize the student with the essentials of library organization and usage adapted to the needs of the elementary school and the junior high-school for the purpose of training teachers who wish to do part-time library work in schools. The course includes administration, book selection, and practice work. This course carries four quarter hour credits and is given only in the summer.

EMMA WIECKING,
Librarian.

Winona Teachers College

We are offering this summer a four quarter credit course in School library methods, covering classification, cataloging, and school library management. This work is given once in two years, alternating with a course which includes reference and book selection. These courses are planned for students who wish to prepare themselves for part time library work.

MILDRED L. ENGSTROM,
Librarian.

LIBRARY AIDS

American Library Association

Booklist Books, 1931, contains two special lists: Technical books and Books for Young People. The latter list is of very great value to the librarian in her book buying for this most difficult group of readers. It is interesting to note that a comparison with five years ago shows the section on social sciences to be three times as long and that on technical books more than doubled. This

excellent check list is available in heavy paper covers at 65 cents.

For Thinking America has aided libraries to such an extent in calling attention to books which offer a rational viewpoint on the present economic situation that the A. L. A. is reissuing the list with slight changes to keep it up to date. One hundred copies of the second list cost \$1.25.

Periodicals for the Small Library, by Frank K. Walter, is now in its sixth edition. Every library, no matter how small, should have a copy of this booklet, for its valuable annotations, suggestions for placing subscriptions, the binding and care of periodicals. It lists business and technical periodicals, educational magazines, periodical indexes and newspapers. Its price is \$1.00.

Men, Machines and the World of Today is a new reading list for boys and girls. Some of the divisions are: Cogs and wheels, Riders of the wind, Sea lanes of the world, The world growing up. This list, as well as others—Books for the Pre-School Child, Romance and Adventure for Boys and Girls in Their Early Teens, Stories of American Life for Boys and Girls—is ten cents a copy and may be obtained from Miss Harriet Leaf, Public Library, Akron, Ohio.

H. W. Wilson Company

Standard Catalog for Public Libraries: Philosophy, Religion, General works. This section completes the Standard Catalog, an invaluable guide for librarians in medium and small libraries. Its annotations and analytics make it useful for reference as well as a buying aid. The annual supplements keep the selections up to date. This volume purchased separately costs \$2.25.

Vertical File Service

The H. W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, New York City, has begun with the April issue a service to libraries which it is hoped will be of invaluable aid to the busy librarian. The Vertical File Service indexes pamphlet and free material as the Reader's Guide does the magazine field. Subscribers send to the Wilson Company notations of material desired on blanks provided by the Service. The Company sees that the library receives the material, saving the time of the librarian in writing all the many sources and in this way bringing to her attention a vast field of helpful information hitherto unknown to her or unused because of the difficulties in sending for it.

The price for this service is approximately that of the Reader's Guide. It is a new venture which will require adjustment but of its value to libraries there can be no question.

RECENT BOOKS OF MERIT Non-Fiction

McKenzie, Vernon. Behind the headlines. Cape, 1931, 2.50. 070

Fourteen reporters tell with candor and humor their journalistic adventures along

the trail of new stories. Men and older boys will enjoy this.

Lippmann, Walter. The United States in world affairs; an account of American foreign relations, 1931. Harper, 1932, 327

The first of annual volumes as fillers for the gap between history and newspaper accounts. "A brilliant summary, timely and useful."

Wilbur, Ray Lyman. Conservation in the Department of Interior. Supt. of Documents, 1931, 1.00. 339

Such subjects as irrigation, public lands, oil, natural gas, Indians, children, territorial administration are beautifully illustrated as well as readably discussed for the general reader.

LeCron, Helen. How to be a club woman. Appleton, 1932, 1.50. 396

Friendly, simple, direct advice for new club members, particularly—on the duties of the officers and chairmen, how to write a club paper, how to make a speech, how and when to entertain, etc. Program suggestions are also made. Really helpful.

Pyerraft, William Plane. Standard natural history from amoeba to man. Warne, 1931, 6.00. 590

Order this from an English house, such as Simpkin and Marshall in London, and you will pay less than \$3.00 for it at the present rate of exchange. It is considered "popular natural history at its best—one of the most agreeable and satisfactory in recent years." Simple terms are used and there are an unusual number of splendid illustrations.

Beebe, William. Nonsuch: land of water. Brewer, 1932, 3.50. 591

His usual distinguished prose combines with his marvelous photographs to make this account of undersea life at Bermuda truly thrilling.

Davenport, Marcia. Mozart. Scribner, 1932 3.50. 780

The daughter of Alma Gluck has created a living person in her account of the great musician.

Tasker, John Howard. Our American music; 300 years of it. Crowell, 1931, 6.00. 780

Even the small libraries with few dollars to spend will find this book a permanent addition to the shelves. It is invaluable for reference, telling of our first composers, national airs, secular music, Civil War songs, present day church music, etc.

Zanzig, Augustus Delafield. Music in American life, present and future. Oxford, 1932, 3.50. 780

Amateur musical resources in America—what is being done and what could be done to encourage music for all people—are surveyed. Plans, budgets and practical advice makes this useful where there is an interest in amateur musical activities.

Robbins, Leonard Harman. Mountains and men. Dodd, 1931, 3.00. 796
Men and older boys will be especially stirred by these accounts of the "noble pastime of big mountain collecting." Not intentionally thrilling, the truth is enough.

Lyon, Leverett Samuel. Elements of debating; rev. ed. Univ. of Chicago, 1932, 1.25. 808.5
If for no other reason, its list of debatable propositions would make this book a real find—a simple, non-technical discussion of the management of a debate.

Rogers, Robert Emmons. How to be interesting; a little book of platitudes for folks in general, including educators and students. Page, 1931, 2.00. 808.5
Mr. Rogers tells us that we are becoming dreadfully vocal and expressive. In his clever, amusing way he encourages our will to be interested, to be interesting—and since most people like to keep awake, how to keep them so.

Kaufman, George S. Of thee I sing: a musical play. Knopf, 1932, 2.00. 812
This is the Pulitzer prize play of this year—a telling satire on politics.

Sanford, Anne P., comp. Peace plays. Dodd, 1932, 2.50. 812.8
Short plays, with simple settings and small production fees.

Wise, Claude Merton, comp. Yearbook of short plays; first series. Row, 1931, 3.75. 812.8
Amateurs will greet this collection with joy since it contains twenty-five new non-royalty plays. They are easy to produce, popular in style and of many kinds—of youth, fancy, the real, atmosphere, dialect, ridiculous, history, romance and for women.

Hartman, Gertrude. The world we live in and how it came to be: a pictured outline of man's progress from the earliest days to the present. Macmillan, 1931, 5.00. 901
Another expensive book which is justified—a fascinating book for both adults and children, written in a charming easy manner and most beautifully and completely illustrated with contemporary drawings.

Chater, Melville. Two canoe gypsies. Brewer, 1932, 3.50. 914.4
By canal through Belgium and France—a delightful vacation for the reader as well as the authors.

Risley, Mrs. Eleanor de la Vergne. An abandoned orchard. Little, 1932, 2.50. 917.6
The gallant author of "The road to Wildcat" wins a living from a deserted Ozark apple orchard.

Hogue, Wayman. Back yonder; an Ozark chronicle. Minton, 1932, 3.00. 917.78
The home life and quaint customs of this little known region of our country are simply presented by a man who revisited his childhood home there. The wood-cut illustrations are attractive.

Dickey, Herbert Spencer. My jungle book. Little, 1932, 3.50. 918
An American physician, a South American resident of many years, relieves his mind amidst missionaries, the expedition racket and "tall tales" about the natives. He gives small space to his discovery of the source of the Orinoco.

Strong, Sidney Rex, ed. What I owe to my father. Holt, 1931, 1.50. 920
Fourteen well-known people—Jane Adams, Roger Babson, Vachel Lindsay, Stephen Wise and others—tell what their fathers meant to them.

Gaither, Mrs. Frances Ormond Jones. The fatal river: the life and death of LaSalle. Holt, 1931, 3.00. 921
High school boys and men will appreciate this splendid account of the great explorer.

Cohen-Portheim, Paul. Time stood still: my internment in England, 1914-1918. Dutton, 1932, 3.00. 940.9
The undramatic, monotonous and futile life of internment camps is pictured by a dignified and fair-minded German artist who was interned in England. The war period from an entirely different angle.

Mayo, Robert J. Adventures in Minnesota history. Hale, 1931, 1.00. 977.6
Libraries will welcome this additional material for the study of our state—its great men, the iron mines and railroads, etc. It is for children of the fourth grade and above.

Fiction

Novels of Substance

Buck, Mrs. Pearl Sydenstricker. The young revolutionist. Friendship Press, 1932, 1.50. 940.9
Adults and older boys and girls will appreciate this picture of the struggle of young China to free itself from the past.

Burke, Fielding, pseud. Call home the heart. Longmans, 1932, 2.50.

From the mountains to a North Carolina mill town and back to her mountain home goes the heroine. "An unusually fine and moving story, beautifully written" with a touch of propaganda.

Christiansen, Sigurd W. Two living and one dead; tr. from the Norwegian by Edwin Bjorkman. Liveright, 1932, 2.50.

An exceptionally forceful picture of the effect of a postal robbery on two men—the one who resisted, was wounded and became a hero and the other who had a moment to think, gave up the money and struggled the remainder of his life to justify himself—and of the man who died.

Deland, Mrs. Margaret Wade Campbell. Captain Archer's daughter. Harper, 1932, 2.50.

About a New England sea captain, his runaway daughter and her son. This is Mrs.

Deland's first novel in some years.

Esty, Mrs. Annette. Proud house. Harper, 1932, 2.00.

"Unusual in presenting, without sentimentality, an understanding interpretation of Polish immigrants in Vermont."

Gibbs, Sir Philip Hamilton. Golden years. Doubleday, 1932, 2.50.

The "long life of Lady Isobel who was gay, naughty and rebellious in the 70's and in 1931 was still one of the great ladies of London."

Golding, Louis. Magnolia Street. Farrar, 1932, 2.50.

Jews and Gentiles, on opposite sides of Magnolia Street, almost become one community during the War. A long story, packed with people and incidents.

Hull, Helen. Heat lightning. Coward, 1932, 2.50.

This is for women readers—the many domestic crises of one week in her parents' home help Amy Westover to gain a new perspective on her own married life.

Means, Florence Crannell. A candle in the mist. Houghton, 1931, 2.00.

Primarily for older girls, this story of Ohio and southern Minnesota in the 1870's has interest for all Minnesotans. Based on an actual diary.

Peterkin, Mrs. Julia Mood. Bright skin. Bobbs, 1932, 2.50.

Cotton plantation life again, with Cricket, the "bright skin" half-white, lured away to Harlem.

Sheriff, Robert Cedric. The fortnight in September. Stokes, 1932, 2.00.

Simple, uneventful, quiet—a family's two-week vacation at the seashore. For the appreciative reader. We remember Sheriff as the author of "Journey's End."

White, Stewart Edward. The long rifle. Doubleday, 1932, 2.50.

For those who enjoy an historical background—the days of Daniel Boone and later. For men and older boys particularly.

Popular Fiction

Boyd, Aubrey. Smoky pass. Dutton, 1932, 2.00.

A tale of the Yukon in the 90's—of interest to men.

Chambers, Whitman. The navy murders. Dodd, 1932, 2.00.

Exceptionally good detective story—praised by everyone.

Cullen, Countee. One way to heaven. Harper, 1932, 2.00.

An effective, oftentimes amusing picture of Harlem negro life—including revival meetings and a wedding which is a "sketch."

Jackson, Mrs. Margaret Weymouth. First fiddle. Bobbs, 1932, 2.00.

Post-war difficulties of an average young married couple. Interesting and readable.

Jordan, Elizabeth Garner. Play-boy. Century, 1932, 2.00.

A money-wise wife and a spendthrift husband.

Mackail, Denis George. David's day. Houghton, 1932, 2.50.

For amusement and entertainment, showing that one simple episode starts a chain of events moving, domino-fashion.

Mulford, Clarence Edward. Mesquite Jenkins. Doubleday, 1932, 2.00.

A good western.

Sawyer, Ruth. Folkhouse: the autobiography of a home. Appleton, 1932, 2.00.

Women readers will enjoy this tale.

Scarlett, Roger, pseud. Cat's paw. Doubleday, 1931, 2.00.

"Non-gruesome" mystery.

Shute, Nevil, pseud. Lonely road. Morrow, 1932, 2.00.

An appealing love story with a touch of mystery.

Stringer, Arthur. The mud lark. Bobbs, 1932, 2.00.

A "blind" marriage arranged by mail takes the heroine to an Alberta wheat ranch.

Williams, Ben Ames. Pirate's purchase. Dutton, 1931, 2.50.

An island near the Georgia coast is the scene of a real kidnaping.

THE BIRDS OF MINNESOTA

By Thomas S. Roberts

All Minnesota libraries, both public and school, will wish to buy these notable volumes from the University of Minnesota Press in Minneapolis. They represent a lifetime of work by Dr. Roberts and through the generosity of a group of his friends they are being sold at a price far below cost so that they may reach every school and library in Minnesota—the cherished wish of the author. There are ninety-two full-page color plates in addition to more than five hundred other illustrations. Most of the birds of the Upper Mississippi Valley are included as well as adjacent Canadian territory, so that the volumes are of far more than local importance.

There are two styles of binding, the one in cloth with gold stamping at \$6.00 for the two volumes being that which most libraries will secure. The school and public libraries in one town have already received them as gifts from the local Izaak Walton League chapter. This is a suggestion for other groups where the library funds are very limited.

NEWBERY AWARD

Waterless Mountain, the story of a Navajo Indian boy, written by Laura Adams Armer and published by Longmans Green, has been awarded the Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to children's literature published in 1931. The

award was presented to Mrs. Armer by Miss Emma Lee, chairman of the Section for Library Work with Children, at a meeting held during the American Library Association Conference in New Orleans.

Mrs. Armer is a widely recognized authority upon Navajo legends, symbolism and ceremonials, and an artist whose paintings of Navajo mythology have brought her national recognition.

Concerning the choice of the title, Mrs. Armer explains that her inspiration for it came during a trip to the Navajo country to copy sand paintings for the new Rockefeller Museum in San Jose. Her travels took her to a remote section of the country where there was a mountain topped by a large flat mesa upon which there was not a drop of water. This waterless mountain is made a symbolic theme throughout her book.

Illustrations for *Waterless Mountain* were made by Mrs. Armer and her husband, a San Francisco artist. The publishers have given the book a distinguished and unusually beautiful format in keeping with its subject matter.

TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES

The last few weeks have been very busy ones for the reference librarian. Numerous requests for club libraries are already in. The material will be assembled during the summer after Miss Kress returns. Librarians will do well to let us know now on what subjects they will need books to supplement their own collections for their club patrons.

Since the appearance of the Standard Catalog for the 100's and 200's, we have checked our shelf list and discarded a good deal of material, usually unused and not appearing in either the A. L. A. Catalog or the Standard Catalog. There remain only the books on literature to weed out, when we feel that the open shelf collection will be in very good condition. Library of Congress cards have been adapted for most of the books in the 300's and with those in collective biography, make a substantial beginning toward a dictionary catalog.

Lists have been made of our books on vocations, psychology, aviation and radio. We will be glad to send them to librarians in the smaller libraries who may keep them at hand as available additional material for their patrons.

This is a very good time for librarians to secure traveling libraries for their summer borrowers, especially among the children. Many are coming in from the schools which are closing and the selection is very good. It will be possible to keep these books for a longer period than the usual time, since it will be desirable for the Library Division to have as many boxes out as possible late in the fall when we move into the new building. Extension of time on the traveling libraries, for this reason, will be welcome.

Additions to the Open Shelf Fiction

Blake. *Roofs of Weir*.
Corbett. *Young Mrs. Meigs*.
Deeping. *Challenge of love*.
De la Pasture. *Diary of a provincial lady*.
Dormie. *Expatriates*.
Great Spanish short stories.
Hilton. *And now good-bye*.
Lenanton. *Major Grant*.
Romanov. *Without cherry blossoms*.
Thomas. *Knickerbocker blood*.
Young. *Mr. and Mrs. Pennington*.

Non-Fiction

Adams. *Modern Diesel engine practice*.
Allen. *Adventurous Americans*.
Arlitt. *Your child from one to twelve*.
Armstrong. *Old Massa's people*.
Atherton. *Adventures of a novelist*.
Baker. *Woodrow Wilson*, vol. 3 and 4.
Blankenship. *American literature*.
Boleslavski. *Way of the lancer*.
Brooke. *Treasury of Irish poetry*; new ed.
Brooks. *Life of Emerson*.
Carneal. *Conqueror of space*; Lee de Forest.
Carr. *Old Mother Mexico*.
Cotton. *Keeping mentally alive*.
Crandall. *Paradise quest*.
Daglish. *How to see birds*.
Darling. *Ding goes to Russia*.
Downes. *Symphonic broadcasts*.
Dreiser. *History of myself: Dawn*.
Eggers. *George Bellows*.
Essad. *Stalin*.
Farleigh. *Principles and problems of aircraft engines*.
Felix. *Television*.
Freeman. *Voices of October*.
Galsworthy. *The roof*.
Groves. *Sex in marriage*.
Harrington. *Paths to print*.
Hoover. *Economic life of Soviet Russia*.
Howard. *Insect menace*.
Hunkins. *South Dakota*.
Jones. *Christ of the Mount*.
Keye. *Victor Herbert*.
Laird. *Why we don't like people*.
Laughlin. *So you're going to Spain!*
Lawes. *20,000 years in Sing Sing*.
Leonard. *Tragedy of Henry Ford*.
Loggins. *Negro authors*.
Lohman. *Principles of city planning*.
Lovell. *Golden isles of Georgia*.
Ludwig. *Gifts of life*.
McCullough. *How to spend your money*.
Mears. *Public speaking for executives*.
Paine. *Diego Rivera*.
Parsons. *Heroes of the Northwest*.
Ramsey. *Garden pools*.
Rawson. *When antiques were young*.
Richards. *Stepping westward*.
Shaw. *Complete plays*.
Slack. *Elementary electricity*.
Smith. *Lyric religion*.
Stearns. *What kind of college is best?*
Thompson. *I saw Hitler!*
Tobey. *Cancer*.
Verrill. *Jamaica of today*.

White. Gliding and soaring.

Williams. Adolescence.

Worsley. Endurance.

MILDRED L. METHVEN,
Librarian.

PERSONAL

Ina Ten Eyck Firkins, who has been on the staff of the University Library since her graduation in 1889, and for many years reference librarian, will retire August 1.

Besides her work at the University through which she is well known to thousands of students she has won prominence in the library world by her compilations of the Index to short stories, and Supplement, Index to plays and a bibliography of Ibsen.

In memory of the late Agnes E. Torpey, librarian of the Morris Public Library for 20 years, a tablet was placed in the library by the Literary Club, Students Club and the Wadsworth Trail Chapter of the D. A. R.

The unveiling took place March 30 with appropriate ceremonies. A most interesting sketch of her life was read by Mrs. F. A. Hancock and Miss Baldwin of the Library Division gave a tribute to her work as a librarian.

Fern Gavin, who has been librarian at Mountain Iron for the past 8 years was recently married to Dr. S. P. McDaniel, president of the village, and has resigned her position to take effect July 1.

She will be succeeded by Fannie Viitala who was assistant librarian at Mountain Iron last year, and is now completing the library course at Wisconsin University, where she will receive her degree in June.

Miss Lydia Cutler, who resigned from her position in the Catalog Division, St. Paul Public Library, March first, was married on May 7 to Ernst-Joseph Schrader.

NEWS FROM PUBLIC LIBRARIES

During the past winter, there has been an unprecedented increase in the use of libraries and a number of libraries have reported a record circulation including Crookston, Fergus Falls, Graceville, Jackson and Owatonna, which circulated 11,400 books in March.

The following extract from a letter from the librarian at Crosby describes a situation which is typical: "Our circulation of books has been more than any other year since the organization of the library in 1914, and the reading in the library increased so much that we had to buy more chairs to accommodate the readers. Our trouble is we have no more room for chairs, so people stood up and read. The adult circulation surpassed the childrens this year which has never happened before.

"One man on returning books at the charging table said, 'This makes just 50 books I have read this winter and I never

patronized a library before in my life'—depression having left him idle,—but I cannot tell you how much I have appreciated this opportunity to borrow books."

Surely the library is coming into its own as far as appreciation and use is concerned, and library trustees should see to it that its resources are not curtailed in this crisis. The resolution passed by the A. L. A. Council should be endorsed. (See p. 113.)

Administration and Finance

Eveleth—Owing to an injunction proceeding against the city restraining it from spending money, the public library was threatened with closing. The library board made a strong protest, and arrangements have been made to provide \$1,200 a month for the operation of the library.

Grand Rapids—A curtailment of library hours has been necessitated by a temporary shortage of funds.

Howard Lake—The library which has been maintained by the Library Club with aid from the council for purchase of books will be turned over to the council, who will appoint a library board in compliance with the law. The Library Club will still raise money to assist in supporting the library.

Moorhead—The library had a bargain day in April, when all lost and strayed books belonging to the library were accepted without comment, criticism or cost. A box stood in the lobby to receive the volumes.

Spring Valley—A total of 67 books have been added to the library the past year, through the rental shelf maintained by the Up-to-Date Club. The circulation in March was over 1900, the largest in the history of the library. Percentage of non-fiction readers increases every month.

Thief River Falls—As an emergency measure, the period of circulation of popular books has been shortened from two weeks to seven days in order to supply the increased demands.

Virginia—The city council has voted to maintain the men's reading room, formerly under the direction of the library board, as a refuge for unemployed men.

New Libraries

Franklin—The Women's Civic Club has started a library which is open Saturday afternoon and evening in a drug store.

Kinney—A library board has been appointed, a one-mill tax levied and a public library has been opened in the school.

Springfield—The Women's Literary Club has opened a public library in a room in the city hall provided by the council. The project was financed by a home talent play and gifts of money and books, and a book shower and tea was given at the opening.

Wabasso—A public library has been started by the Progress Club in the city council room.

Library Benefits

Cambridge—A mystery play was given by the Junior Twelve Club. Proceeds, \$56. **Elk River**, the annual card party, which is well patronized.

McGregor—The Community Club held a pie and apron sale.

Mahnomen—The Library Club sponsored an entertainment of plays and specialties given by a group of students from the McPhail School of Music.

Gifts

Faribault—Mrs. Anna M. Buckham has further enriched the Buckham Memorial Library by the gift of four mural paintings, to be placed in the reference room. Alfred J. Hyslop, associate professor of art at Carleton College, has been commissioned to execute the work. The panels will be symbolic in design, representing aspects of Greek Life.

Other recent gifts noted are:

Fairmont—\$75 from the College Women's Club for purchase of books.

Lake Crystal—\$21.25 from the Delphians.

Litchfield—\$5 from the P.-T. A. for books of interest to parents and teachers.

Watonna—\$50 from the Twentieth Century Club, \$5 from Mrs. Charles Pound and gifts of books, magazines and pictures, received as the result of an appeal from the librarian for help during the present shortage of funds.

Improvements

Blue Earth—Rest rooms in the basement are being redecorated and newspaper racks reconstructed.

Cloquet—New steel stacks have been purchased with the bequest from the late Mrs. Hattie De Lescaille. The adult books are now shelved in the stack room and an intermediate department has been installed.

Little Falls—Owing to the crowded condition of the main floor, the basement auditorium has been converted into a children's room, where books for the first six grades are shelved. Mrs. R. L. Nedry is in charge.

Mapleton—A room in the library basement has been finished off for use as a meeting place of the city council, clubs and other organizations. Funds for this purpose were donated to the village several years ago.

Moorhead—The library board room in the basement has been redecorated and new drapes hung.

Paynesville—The library is much improved by having the walls and floor painted.

Two Harbors—The children's room was moved to the basement in February where it is open daily from 3:30-5:30 to children below the eighth grade.

Publicity

Duluth—During the Spring months interest in gardening has been encouraged by displays of flower and vegetable seed catalogs, accompanied by books on gardening.

At a meeting of the Garden Flower Society at the Woodland Branch, Miss Ruth Haven, the librarian gave a talk on Garden books.

At a meeting of 4-H boys' and girls' clubs, Miss Alice Brown, children's librarian made a plea for the preservation of wild flowers in the Arrowhead.

Miss Brown also spoke at a meeting of the Girl Scouts' Leaders Association on books available on Girl Scout activities.

Hutchinson—In her weekly Library Notes, the librarian, Mrs. Sophie P. White, includes interesting comments on books by readers. Attention is also called to books connected with educational radio programs.

Exhibits

Detroit Lakes—The Library Club sponsored an exhibit of paintings in the library, the work of Mrs. J. Vernerstrom Cannon, a former resident of Detroit Lakes.

Watonna—A collection of mounted birds was loaned by Mr. J. H. Jager, and the colonial exhibit in honor of the Washington Bicentennial was arranged by the D. A. R.

South St. Paul—Tapestries hand colored by grade pupils were displayed in the community room of the American Legion Memorial Library.

Community and Social Activities

Brainerd—Members of the library board gave a dinner at Archer's Cafe on May 5. Representatives of the public school and other citizens interested in the library were present. Mr. H. I. Cohen, one of the original founders of the library told of the beginnings of the institution, and Miss Baldwin of the Library Division spoke on the development of libraries in the state.

Cloquet—The Young Men's Forum holds regular meetings at the library. Such topics as Taxation, Communism in the U. S. are discussed. Miss Grogan, the librarian, who is an honorary vice-president, entertained the club at a skating party at the Duluth Curling Club in February.

Little Falls—At a recent visit to Little Falls, Miss Baldwin of the Library Division spoke at a meeting of the P. E. O. on library development in Minnesota.

Paynesville—The Booklover's Club held a special meeting at the library with an exhibit of relics and an interesting talk on a recent trip to Washington, D. C. by one of the members. Tea was served.

Pine City—At the annual meeting of the Library Association on May 3rd, Mildred Methven of the Library Division gave a talk on methods of book selection, reviewing a number of new books. Father O'Mahoney spoke on Women in literature from Shakespeare to the present time and Mrs. Wise-man, school librarian, discussed work in the school library.

Reports of officers and committees were read and officers for the past year were re-elected unanimously.

South St. Paul—Two lectures by Mrs. W. W. Remington of Minneapolis were given in the community room of the library under the auspices of the South St. Paul library commission. She discussed current events and gave reviews of recent books.

Story Hours

Story hours are a regular feature of the work with children in many libraries. A few new or unusual programs are noted below:

Detroit Lakes—A story hour every Saturday afternoon for children of pre-school age, has been started by the Library Club.

Eveleth—The story-hour programs given at the library each Saturday morning during the winter have been chosen from the classics in children's literature, ancient and modern, including cycles of the Story of the Rhinegold, and Stories of the Trojan War.

A bird project is being conducted in the children's room during the spring months. A bird chart, consisting of a large tree, has been drawn, on which pictures of birds are pasted as they are seen by the children.

South St. Paul—One of the regular Saturday morning story-hours was given over to a program of songs and stories by A. H. Eyles, Jr. of Philadelphia. The stories were illustrated by figurines made of corks and toothpicks.

Virginia—At the last of the weekly story hours at the public library, a puppet show "The Mad Tea Party" taken from Alice in Wonderland was given in honor of the 100th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's birth. The sets and puppets were made by Miss Holmes, the children's librarian.

Washington Bicentennial

The Washington Bicentennial has been observed in many libraries and material has been generously supplied for school programs.

In **Owatonna** public library an exhibit of colonial heirlooms was sponsored by the Owatonna Chapter of the D. A. R. the last two weeks of February.

A copy of the Stuart portrait of Washington, the official bicentennial picture was presented to the **Moorhead** public library, by B. F. Mackall, secretary of the library board.

Washington elms have been planted on library grounds in many places:—

Annandale, by the Improvement Club.

Austin, five trees on the library boulevard, by the High school classes.

Blue Earth, by the Mitchell Chautauqua Circle.

Northfield, an offspring of the Washington elm at Cambridge by the Josiah Edson chapter of the D. A. R. with appropriate ceremonies.

Robbinsdale, by the Robbinsdale Library Club.

COUNTY LIBRARIES

Hennepin County—The Spring Institute for Hennepin County librarians was held on May 21, at Glen Lake School with Mrs. Frank Dominick as hostess. The usual roll-call and discussion of problems was held, and a delicious luncheon was served by the P.-T. A. Reports of the New Orleans convention were given by Miss Countryman, Miss Berry and Miss Pauline Field. Miss Helen Baird of the Minneapolis Public Library reviewed a brief list of recent books and Miss Beryl Struke reviewed Waterless mountain, the Newbery medal book of the year. Julia Wright Merrill, executive assistant of the A. L. A. Library Extension Board was the guest of honor and gave a talk on county libraries, and the work of Library Extension Board.

Pennington County—At the close of the school year, traveling libraries are being returned. In each case the firm conviction is being expressed that the solution for the handling of books for rural school libraries has been reached.

There are schools that have used as many as six different collections during the year. This means that at least 120 books besides numbers of magazines for reference and seat work have been available. The same amount of money spent under the old system would not have purchased more than eight or ten books at the outside.

Washington County—The county commissioners voted the annual appropriation of \$1300 to the Stillwater public library and \$100 to the Newport library.